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General Assembly

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Human Rights Council
Twenty-eighth session
Agenda item 1
Organizational and procedural matters

Statement by the President

PRST 28/1. Twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

At the 52nd meeting, held on 25 March 2015, the President of the Human Rights Council made the following statement:

"The Human Rights Council:

1. Notes that 2015 marks the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995 and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which have contributed greatly to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, while recognizing the importance of the implementation of these commitments and translating them into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and all other relevant stakeholders;

2. Welcomes the progress made towards achieving gender equality, but also notes that major challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly[1] and the declarations of the Commission on the Status of Women on the tenth and fifteenth anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women;

3. Stresses that the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is essential to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

4. Welcomes the inclusion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls as a stand-alone goal in the proposed sustainable development

[1] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

goals, and looks forward to the integration of a gender perspective into the post-2015 development agenda;

5. Calls upon States to take concrete steps towards promoting and protecting all human rights of women and girls, eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls and removing impediments to the development of their full potential as equal partners with men and boys, directed to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women in all spheres of life, including decision-making processes at all levels, bearing in mind that the equal enjoyment of the right to education is one of the keys to the empowerment of women and girls and for ensuring equality and non-discrimination;

6. Reaffirms that Governments bear the primary responsibility for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and that international cooperation has an essential role to play in assisting developing countries in progressing towards the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

7. Endorses the pledge made by States in the political declaration on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women adopted at the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women on 9 March 2015, and looks forward to the global leaders' meeting on gender equality and women's empowerment on 26 September 2015."

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Human Rights Council
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Agenda item 1
Organizational and procedural matters

Statement by the President

PRST 28/2. Seventieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War

At the 55th meeting, held on 26 March 2015, the President of the Human Rights Council made the following statement:

"The Human Rights Council:

1. Recalls that 2015 marks the seventieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War, a war that brought untold sorrow to humankind, particularly in Europe, Asia, Africa, the Pacific and other parts of the world;

2. Pays tribute to all victims of the Second World War, including the victims of the Holocaust, of war crimes and crimes against humanity;

3. Stresses that this historic event established the conditions for the creation of the United Nations, designed to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights and dignity and the worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small;

4. Calls upon the States Members of the United Nations to unite their efforts in dealing with the challenges and threats to international peace and security, with the United Nations playing a central role, and to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations, and to settle all disputes by peaceful means in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations;

5. Underlines the progress made since the end of the Second World War in overcoming its legacy and in promoting reconciliation, international and regional cooperation and democratic values, human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular through the United Nations, and the establishment of regional and subregional and other appropriate frameworks."

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Human Rights Council
Twenty-eighth session
Agenda item 10
Technical assistance and capacity-building

Statement by the President

PRST 28/3
Situation of human rights in Haiti

At the 58th meeting, held on 27 March 2015, the President of the Human Rights Council read out the following statement:

"The Human Rights Council:

1. Thanks the Independent Expert for his report on the situation of human rights in Haiti[1] and takes note of the latest legal and political developments in Haiti, including the progress achieved in civil and political rights, and in economic, social and cultural rights:

(a) The implementation, in May 2014, of phase II of the legal aid bureaux plan to make justice accessible to the most disadvantaged;

(b) The enactment in 2014 of the law on preventing and combating corruption and the law on paternity, maternity and filiation;

(c) The launching in Kenscoff on 23 February 2015, as part of the Three-year Agricultural Revival Programme, of the "Spring Agricultural Campaign" aimed at increasing the production and availability of basic foodstuffs for the Haitian people;

(d) The announcement, on 5 March 2015, of the development of a new security plan for the metropolitan region in order to bring an end to violence in the capital;

(e) The nomination of a new President of the Court of Cassation and of the High Council of the Judiciary, and his inauguration on 9 March 2015;

(f) The launching, on 11 March 2015, by the Government, the United Nations and their partners, of a Transitional Appeal for the period 2015–2016 aimed

[1] A/HRC/28/82.

at reducing extreme vulnerability of population groups and enhancing resilience in Haiti;

(g) The submission to the President of the Republic, on 13 March 2015, of the preliminary draft revision of the Criminal Code by the members of the Presidential Commission on Judicial Reform, which was established in January 2012;

(h) The continuous work of the Interministerial Human Rights Committee, created in May 2013, which is responsible for coordinating and harmonizing public human rights policy.

2. Welcomes the renewed commitment of Haiti to the effective implementation of the international human rights treaties to which Haiti is a party, with the submission to the Human Rights Committee in October 2014 of its initial report on the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the forthcoming submission by Haiti to the treaty bodies concerned of its reports on the rights of the child, in January 2016, on economic, social and cultural rights, in January 2016, and on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, in February 2016;

3. Welcomes the reaffirmation of the commitment of the Haitian authorities to improving the living conditions of Haitian women and men by, inter alia, devoting greater attention to respect for human rights;

4. Also welcomes the inauguration, on 23 January 2015, of a new Provisional Electoral Council, the publication by the Provisional Electoral Council of the electoral decree and election timetable, and the official launching of the electoral process on 13 March 2015. The Human Rights Council calls on the Haitian authorities and all parties concerned to respect the electoral timetable published in the Official Gazette and to ensure that the elections are properly conducted;

5. Encourages the Haitian Government, in this context, to continue strengthening the rule of law by, inter alia, combating impunity and corruption and tackling crime and its causes. The Council strongly urges the Haitian Government to continue building the capacity of the national police force and the justice system with a view to ensuring the proper functioning of public institutions and services and the enjoyment of all human rights;

6. Welcomes the launching, on 2 March 2015, of the "Crackdown" operation designed to provide an urgent and structured response to the phenomenon of prolonged pretrial detention as well as the establishment of a "Crackdown" Commission. The Council calls on the Haitian Government to step up its efforts to address the causes of prolonged pretrial detention and to reduce the number of cases;

7. Encourages the Haitian Government to strengthen national human rights institutions, particularly the Office of Citizen Protection, and to provide it with adequate resources;

8. Urges the Haitian Government to continue to adopt the necessary political and legal measures to safeguard the rights of members of vulnerable groups, including child domestic workers;

9. Also urges the Haitian Government to increase women's participation in political affairs and to continue to combat gender-based violence and discrimination;

10. Acknowledges that the full enjoyment of both civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural human rights constitutes a factor conducive to peace, stability and development in Haiti;

11. Encourages the international community as a whole and, in particular, international donors, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, the group of countries known as the Friends of Haiti, and specialized agencies of the United Nations, particularly the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to step up their cooperation and coordination efforts with the Haitian authorities with a view to the full realization of all human rights in Haiti;

12. Welcomes and approves the request of the Haitian authorities for a one-year extension of the mandate of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti, which concerns technical assistance and capacity-building;

13. Encourages the Independent Expert to continue to work with international institutions, donors and the international community to raise their awareness of the need to provide their expertise and sufficient resources to support the efforts of the Haitian authorities to rebuild the country and pursue sustainable development;

14. Also encourages the Independent Expert to continue to work with the Haitian Government, Haitian non-governmental organizations and civil society in Haiti. It invites the Haitian Government to continue its active cooperation with civil society;

15. Invites the Independent Expert to assist the Haitian Government in implementing his own recommendations and those made by other special procedures;

16. Invites the Independent Expert to submit his report on the situation of human rights in Haiti to the Council at its thirty-first session. It further invites him to undertake a mission to Haiti and to report on that mission to the Council at its thirty-first session."